

Elementary and secondary school enrollment

School enrollment is one measure of the size of the educational system and of the demand for teachers, buildings, and education resources. Past trends and projected future changes in the composition of enrollment across levels of education and regions of the country, as well as between public and private schools, indicate the types of teachers and other resources the Nation requires. Demographics, such as birth rates and immigration, are a primary factor in determining elementary and secondary school enrollment.

- From 1984 to 1996, total public school enrollment rose 17 percent, after falling 15 percent between 1970 and 1984; public schools continue to enroll almost 9 out of 10 children (see supplemental tables 44-1 and 44-2).
 - Total private school enrollment increased 2 percent between 1970 and 1986, but rose 6 percent between 1986 and 1996.
 - Total public school enrollment is projected to rise from 46.4 million in 1997 to 48.3 million by 2007,
- an increase of 4 percent. During this same period, total private school enrollment is expected to increase 3 percent, rising from 5.9 million to 6.1 million.
- Between 1970 and 1995, the share of total public school enrollment increased in the South and West, while it declined in the Northeast and the Midwest.

Elementary and secondary school enrollment (in thousands), by control and level of school, with projections: Selected years Fall 1970–2007

Year/period	Public schools			Private schools		
	Grades K–12 ¹	Grades K–8 ¹	Grades 9–12	Grades K–12 ¹	Grades K–8 ¹	Grades 9–12
1970	45,894	32,558	13,336	5,363	4,052	1,311
1986	39,753	27,420	12,333	5,452	4,116	1,336
1996 ²	45,700	32,826	12,874	5,784	4,490	1,293
	Projected			Projected		
1997	46,353	33,216	13,138	5,863	4,544	1,320
2007	48,262	33,393	14,870	6,061	4,568	1,494
	Percentage change			Percentage change		
1970–86	-13.4	-15.8	-7.5	1.7	1.6	1.9
1986–96 ²	15.0	19.7	4.4	6.1	9.1	-3.2
	Projected percentage change			Projected percentage change		
1997–2007	4.1	0.5	13.2	3.4	0.5	13.2

¹ Enrollment includes most kindergartners and a relatively small number of nursery school students. ² Estimates based on preliminary data.

Percentage distribution of public elementary and secondary school enrollment, by region: Selected years Fall 1970–95

Fall of year	Northeast	Midwest	South	West
1970	21.5	28.2	32.2	18.2
1975	21.6	27.4	32.7	18.3
1980	20.1	26.2	34.6	19.2
1985	18.6	25.0	35.8	20.6
1992 ¹	17.6	23.8	35.9	22.7
1993 ¹	17.6	23.7	35.9	22.8
1994 ¹	17.6	23.5	35.9	22.9
1995 ²	17.7	23.5	35.9	22.9

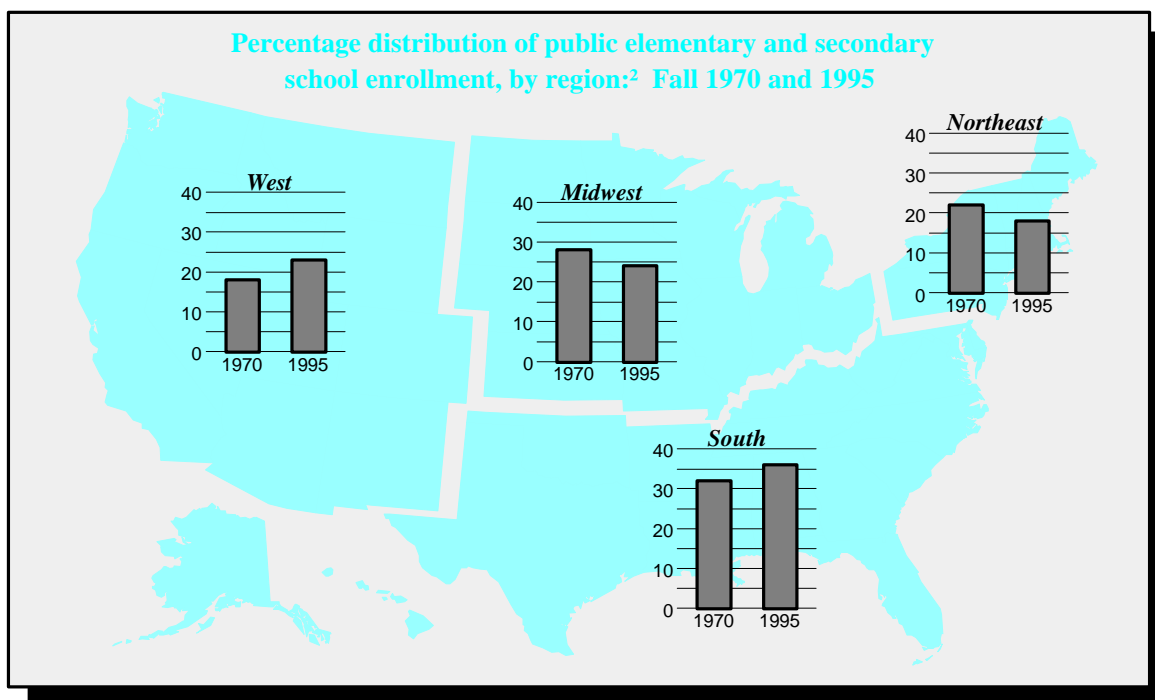
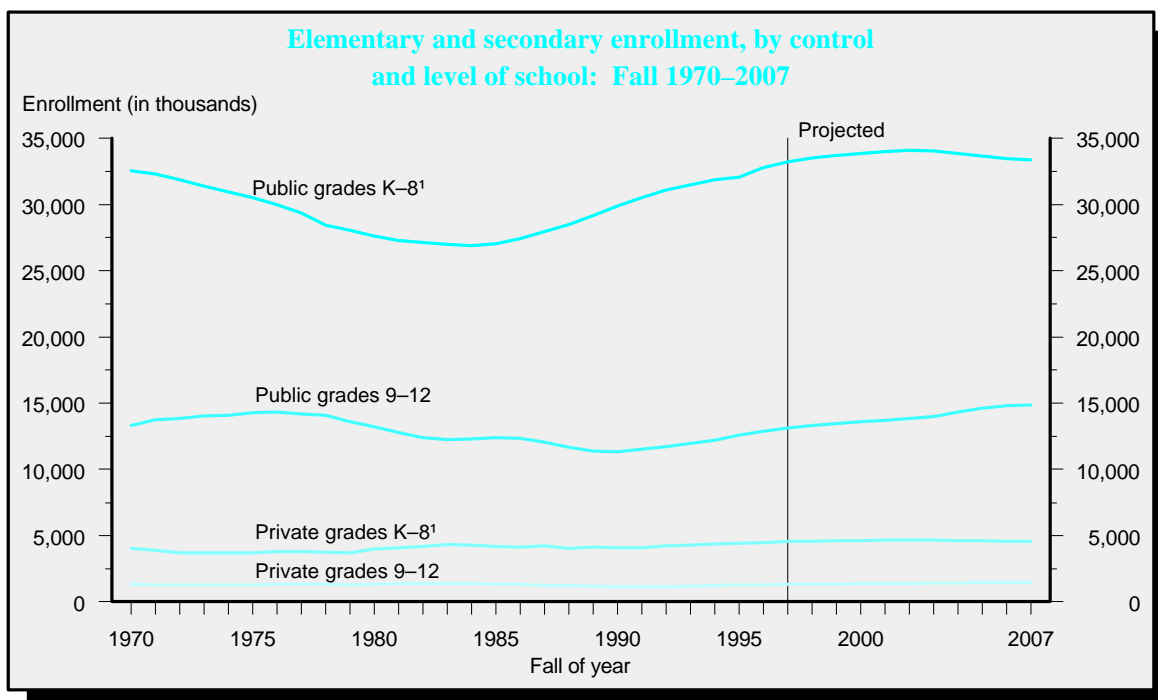
¹ Revised from previously published figures.

² Estimated.

NOTE: See supplemental table 44-3 for a definition of regions.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, *Digest of Education Statistics, 1996* (based on Common Core of Data) and *Projections of Education Statistics to 2007, 1997*.

Elementary and secondary school enrollment



¹ Enrollment includes most kindergartners and a relatively small number of nursery school students.

² See note in supplemental table 44–3 for a definition of regions.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, *Digest of Education Statistics, 1996* (based on Common Core of Data) and *Projections of Education Statistics to 2007, 1997*.

**Elementary and secondary school enrollment (in thousands), by control and level of school,
with projections: Selected years Fall 1970–2007**

Year/period	Public schools			Private schools		
	Grades K–12 ¹	Grades K–8 ¹	Grades 9–12	Grades K–12 ¹	Grades K–8 ¹	Grades 9–12
1970	45,894	32,558	13,336	5,363	4,052	1,311
1986	39,753	27,420	12,333	5,452	4,116	1,336
1996 ²	45,700	32,826	12,874	5,784	4,490	1,293
	Projected			Projected		
1997	46,353	33,216	13,138	5,863	4,544	1,320
2007	48,262	33,393	14,870	6,061	4,568	1,494
	Percentage change			Percentage change		
1970–86	-13.4	-15.8	-7.5	1.7	1.6	1.9
1986–96 ²	15.0	19.7	4.4	6.1	9.1	-3.2
	Projected percentage change			Projected percentage change		
1997–2007	4.1	0.5	13.2	3.4	0.5	13.2

¹ Enrollment includes most kindergartners and a relatively small number of nursery school students.

² Estimates based on preliminary data.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, *Digest of Education Statistics, 1996* (based on Common Core of Data) and *Projections of Education Statistics to 2007, 1997*.

**Percentage distribution of public elementary and secondary school enrollment, by region:
Selected years Fall 1970–95**

Fall of year	Northeast	Midwest	South	West
1970	21.5	28.2	32.2	18.2
1975	21.6	27.4	32.7	18.3
1980	20.1	26.2	34.6	19.2
1985	18.6	25.0	35.8	20.6
1992 ¹	17.6	23.8	35.9	22.7
1993 ¹	17.6	23.7	35.9	22.8
1994 ¹	17.6	23.5	35.9	22.9
1995 ²	17.7	23.5	35.9	22.9

¹ Revised from previously published figures.

² Estimated.

NOTE: See the note in supplemental table 44-3 for a definition of regions.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, *Digest of Education Statistics, 1996* (based on Common Core of Data).

**Table 44-1 Elementary and secondary school enrollment (in thousands),
by control and level of school, with projections: Fall 1970–2007**

Fall of year	Total	Public schools			Private schools ¹		
		Grades K–12 ²	Grades K–8 ²	Grades 9–12	Grades K–12 ²	Grades K–8 ²	Grades 9–12
1970	51,257	45,894	32,558	13,336	5,363	4,052	1,311
1971	51,271	46,071	32,318	13,753	5,200	3,900	1,300
1972	50,726	45,726	31,879	13,848	5,000	3,700	1,300
1973	50,445	45,445	31,401	14,044	5,000	3,700	1,300
1974	50,073	45,073	30,971	14,103	5,000	3,700	1,300
1975	49,819	44,819	30,515	14,304	5,000	3,700	1,300
1976	49,478	44,311	29,997	14,314	5,167	3,825	1,342
1977	48,717	43,577	29,375	14,203	5,140	3,797	1,343
1978	47,637	42,551	28,463	14,088	5,086	3,732	1,353
1979	46,651	41,651	28,034	13,616	5,000	3,700	1,300
1980	46,208	40,877	27,647	13,231	5,331	3,992	1,339
1981	45,544	40,044	27,280	12,764	5,500	4,100	1,400
1982	45,166	39,566	27,161	12,405	5,600	4,200	1,400
1983	44,967	39,252	26,981	12,271	5,715	4,315	1,400
1984	44,908	39,208	26,905	12,304	5,700	4,300	1,400
1985	44,979	39,422	27,034	12,388	5,557	4,195	1,362
1986	45,205	39,753	27,420	12,333	5,452	4,116	1,336
1987	45,488	40,008	27,933	12,076	5,479	4,232	1,247
1988	45,430	40,189	28,501	11,687	5,241	4,036	1,206
1989	45,898	40,543	29,152	11,390	5,355	4,162	1,193
1990	46,448	41,217	29,878	11,338	5,232	4,095	1,137
1991	47,246	42,047	30,506	11,541	5,199	4,074	1,125
1992 ³	48,198	42,823	31,088	11,735	5,375	4,212	1,163
1993 ³	48,936	43,465	31,504	11,961	5,471	4,280	1,191
1994 ³	49,705	44,109	31,894	12,214	5,596	4,360	1,236
1995 ³	50,362	44,662	32,085	12,576	5,700	4,431	1,269
1996 ³	51,484	45,700	32,826	12,874	5,784	4,490	1,293
Projected							
1997	52,217	46,353	33,216	13,138	5,863	4,544	1,320
1998	52,725	46,806	33,512	13,294	5,920	4,584	1,335
1999	53,132	47,170	33,699	13,470	5,963	4,610	1,353
2000	53,465	47,467	33,858	13,609	5,998	4,631	1,367
2001	53,735	47,707	33,994	13,713	6,028	4,650	1,377
2002	53,962	47,911	34,078	13,832	6,051	4,662	1,389
2003	54,117	48,053	34,044	14,010	6,064	4,657	1,407
2004	54,250	48,180	33,861	14,319	6,070	4,632	1,438
2005	54,349	48,276	33,660	14,617	6,073	4,604	1,468
2006	54,388	48,318	33,488	14,830	6,070	4,581	1,490
2007	54,324	48,262	33,393	14,870	6,061	4,568	1,494

¹ Beginning in fall 1980, data include estimates for the expanded universe of private schools.

² Enrollment includes most kindergartners and a relatively small number of nursery school students.

³ Revised from previously published figures.

⁴ Estimates based on preliminary data.

NOTE: The private school enrollment figures for years 1971–75, 1979, 1981–82, 1984, and 1986 are estimated. The 1987 private school enrollment numbers are taken from the Private School Survey (PSS). Private school enrollment figures for grades K–8 and 9–12 for the years 1988–93 are estimated from the K–12 totals. Projections are based on data through 1994. Enrollment figures may not add to totals due to rounding.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, *Digest of Education Statistics*, 1996, table 3 and *Projections of Education Statistics to 2007*, 1997, table 1.

Table 44-2 Percentage of total elementary and secondary school enrollment, by control and level of school, with projections: Fall 1970-2007

Fall of year	Total	Public schools			Private schools ¹		
		Grades K-12 ²	Grades K-8 ²	Grades 9-12	Grades K-12 ²	Grades K-8 ²	Grades 9-12
1970	100.0	89.5	63.5	26.0	10.5	7.9	2.6
1971	100.0	89.9	63.0	26.8	10.1	7.6	2.5
1972	100.0	90.1	62.8	27.3	9.9	7.3	2.6
1973	100.0	90.1	62.2	27.8	9.9	7.3	2.6
1974	100.0	90.0	61.9	28.2	10.0	7.4	2.6
1975	100.0	90.0	61.3	28.7	10.0	7.4	2.6
1976	100.0	89.6	60.6	28.9	10.4	7.7	2.7
1977	100.0	89.4	60.3	29.2	10.6	7.8	2.8
1978	100.0	89.3	59.7	29.6	10.7	7.8	2.8
1979	100.0	89.3	60.1	29.2	10.7	7.9	2.8
1980	100.0	88.5	59.8	28.6	11.5	8.6	2.9
1981	100.0	87.9	59.9	28.0	12.1	9.0	3.1
1982	100.0	87.6	60.1	27.5	12.4	9.3	3.1
1983	100.0	87.3	60.0	27.3	12.7	9.6	3.1
1984	100.0	87.3	59.9	27.4	12.7	9.6	3.1
1985	100.0	87.6	60.1	27.5	12.4	9.3	3.0
1986	100.0	87.9	60.7	27.3	12.1	9.1	3.0
1987	100.0	88.0	61.4	26.5	12.0	9.3	2.7
1988	100.0	88.5	62.7	25.7	11.5	8.9	2.7
1989	100.0	88.3	63.5	24.8	11.7	9.1	2.6
1990	100.0	88.7	64.3	24.4	11.3	8.8	2.4
1991	100.0	89.0	64.6	24.4	11.0	8.6	2.4
1992 ³	100.0	88.8	64.5	24.3	11.2	8.7	2.4
1993 ³	100.0	88.8	64.4	24.4	11.2	9.0	2.4
1994 ^{3,4}	100.0	88.7	64.2	24.6	11.3	8.8	2.5
1995 ^{3,4}	100.0	88.7	63.7	25.0	11.3	8.8	2.5
1996 ⁴	100.0	88.8	63.8	25.0	11.2	8.7	2.5
Projected							
1997	100.0	88.8	63.6	25.2	11.2	8.7	2.5
1998	100.0	88.8	63.6	25.2	11.2	8.7	2.5
1999	100.0	88.8	63.4	25.4	11.2	8.7	2.5
2000	100.0	88.8	63.3	25.5	11.2	8.7	2.6
2001	100.0	88.8	63.3	25.5	11.2	8.7	2.6
2002	100.0	88.8	63.2	25.6	11.2	8.6	2.6
2003	100.0	88.8	62.9	25.9	11.2	8.6	2.6
2004	100.0	88.8	62.4	24.6	11.2	8.5	2.7
2005	100.0	88.8	61.9	26.9	11.2	8.5	2.7
2006	100.0	88.8	61.6	27.3	11.2	8.4	2.7
2007	100.0	88.8	61.5	27.4	11.2	8.4	2.8

¹ Beginning in fall 1980, data include estimates for the expanded universe of private schools.

² Enrollment includes most kindergartners and a relatively small number of nursery school students.

³ Revised from previously published figures.

⁴ Estimates based on preliminary data.

NOTE: The private school enrollment figures for years 1971-75, 1979, 1981-82, 1984, and 1986 are estimated. The 1987 private school enrollment numbers are taken from the Private School Survey (PSS). Private school enrollment figures for grades K-8 private school enrollment numbers are also taken from the PSS. Private school enrollment figures for grades K-8 and 9-12 for the years 1988-93 are estimated from the K-12 totals. Projections are based on data through 1994. Enrollment figures may not add to totals due to rounding.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, *Digest of Education Statistics, 1996*, table 3 and *Projections of Education Statistics to 2007*, 1997, table 1.

Table 44-3 Public elementary and secondary school enrollment (in thousands), by region: Fall 1970-95

Fall of year	United States	Northeast		Midwest		South		West	
	Total number	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
1970	45,893	9,859	21.5	12,935	28.2	14,759	32.2	8,339	18.2
1971	46,071	9,971	21.6	12,969	28.2	14,777	32.1	8,352	18.1
1972	45,726	9,961	21.8	12,868	28.1	14,632	32.0	8,262	18.1
1973	45,444	9,848	21.7	12,666	27.9	14,677	32.3	8,252	18.2
1974	45,073	9,755	21.6	12,510	27.8	14,626	32.5	8,180	18.2
1975	44,819	9,679	21.6	12,294	27.4	14,654	32.7	8,190	18.3
1976	43,310	9,464	21.9	12,097	27.9	14,578	33.7	8,171	18.9
1977	43,577	9,156	21.0	11,763	27.0	14,560	33.4	8,096	18.6
1978	42,550	8,828	20.7	11,320	26.6	14,431	33.9	7,970	18.7
1979	41,650	8,479	20.4	11,031	26.5	14,258	34.2	7,881	18.9
1980	40,877	8,215	20.1	10,698	26.2	14,134	34.6	7,831	19.2
1981	40,044	7,891	19.7	10,372	25.9	13,990	34.9	7,791	19.5
1982	39,566	7,674	19.4	10,139	25.6	13,945	35.2	7,807	19.7
1983	39,252	7,513	19.1	9,986	25.4	13,914	35.4	7,839	20.0
1984	39,208	7,395	18.9	9,889	25.2	13,963	35.6	7,961	20.3
1985	39,422	7,318	18.6	9,862	25.0	14,117	35.8	8,124	20.6
1986	39,753	7,294	18.3	9,871	24.8	14,312	36.0	8,276	20.8
1987	40,008	7,252	18.1	9,870	24.7	14,419	36.0	8,468	21.2
1988	40,189	7,208	17.9	9,846	24.5	14,491	36.1	8,644	21.5
1989	40,543	7,200	17.8	9,849	24.3	14,605	36.0	8,889	21.9
1990	41,217	7,282	17.7	9,944	24.1	14,807	35.9	9,184	22.3
1991	42,047	7,407	17.6	10,080	24.0	15,021	35.7	9,479	22.5
1992 ¹	42,823	7,526	17.6	10,198	23.8	15,357	35.9	9,742	22.7
1993 ¹	43,465	7,654	17.6	10,289	23.7	15,591	35.9	9,931	22.8
1994 ¹	44,109	7,761	17.6	10,385	23.5	15,849	35.9	10,114	22.9
1995 ²	44,662	7,919	17.7	10,487	23.5	16,018	35.9	10,238	22.9

¹ Revised from previously published figures.

² Data estimated by state education agencies.

NOTE: Enrollment figures and percentages may not add to totals due to rounding. Enrollment includes most kindergartners and a relatively small number of nursery school students. The regions of the United States for this analysis are those used by the Census Bureau in the Current Population Survey (CPS). The regions and their states follow:

Northeast: Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont.

Midwest: Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, Wisconsin.

South: Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, West Virginia.

West: Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, Wyoming.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, *Digest of Education Statistics, 1996*, table 39.